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EDUCATION

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H. S. McFARLAND, Editor; W. E. DINGWALL, LL. B., Secretary; JOHNNIE KELLY, Treasurer; HARRY T. STEWART,
Advertising Agent and Circulation Manager.

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MAY - JUNE, 1936

No. 2.

HARLEM MUST LEAD THE WAY

Harlem is the most populous Negro community in the United States. In the heart of New York City with a population of over a quarter of a million persons, the rest of colored America looks to it for initiative and leadership and becomes disappointed when these are found wanting. Knowing this, Harlem can ill afford to jeopardize its prestige especially at this time. Like a man waking up with a "hang-over," we are beginning to realize that during the days of prosperity we had "done the things we ought not to have done, and left undone the things we ought to have done." Forget it! "Let the dead past bury its dead." Wake up! Get rid of your hangover and start to work.

On the program for immediate attention is the following:

1. The Housing Problem.

2. The School System

3. Congressional Representation.

These three highly explosive "shells" need the greatest diplomacy and the most careful handling in their final disposition.

In the April number of EDUCATION, the Consolidated Tenants' League made this classification of fact:

Hall toilets used by 2 families 150	Houses
" 4 families 89	39
" 4 or more families 34	99
Dark and foul sleeping rooms 594	99
Sleeping rooms without windows 102	39
Cellars occupancy1163	27
Wooden (inflammable) fire traps1092	99
Public halls, possibly never cleansed 420	99
Although required, bells not ringing1492	99
Bells torn out 983	99
Garbage in neaps with stenches though	
required by law to be removed by	12
landlord 436	

And Attorney Myles A. Paige, in the same number pointed out that, "In the last 10 years, Harlem received two new junior high schools and elementary schools combined, while during that same period Queens received seventy-eight (78) new schools

"We have P. S. 68 in 128th Street, constructed in 1874; P. S. 157, constructed in 1895; P. S. 5, 140th Sreet and P. S. 90, constructed about 1900, as was P. S. 119 in 1899. Three of these still have only outdoor toilets, obsolete ventilation, positive firetraps and overcrowded with small children. Yet, the 1936 budget of the Board of Education requested 168 new schools and annexes for the City of New York and included only one annex for Harlem, at an estimated cost of \$400,000 out of \$127,983,800."

Congressional representation is still under study.

To lead the way, Harlem must dispose of these dangerous explosives. Working co-operatively and intelligently with City, State and Federal Governments is the only safe method.

The Intra-racial Problem

By CHARLES A. PETIONI, M. D.



The intra-racial problem in New York today requires a great deal of consideration. Much attention is being paid by leaders in this community towards cementing better interracial relations between whites and colored, but hardly any attention is given to the more pressing need for a better understanding between the various members of the so-called Negro race who dwell in Harlem particularly.

There is no doubt that because of the efforts made in the religious, political and civic fields, great progress has been achieved in the direction of breaking down some of the prejudice and barriers which exist between whites and blacks. As a result, in many

CHARLES A. PETIONI, M. D. blacks. As a result, in many organizations there is complete harmony existing as to objectives and the procedure which would tend to benefit the people in general. To the Communists, particularly, as well as to the socialists, a great deal of praise is due on account of their United Front slogan, and their genuine attitude of comradeship among their followers.

The time has now come, in my opinion, when efforts must be exerted in the direction of improving the relations between the native born and foreign colored. This must not be taken to mean that in general there is any marked prejudice against the foreign-born colored people by the mass of the natives, but it has to be noted that, at this time, far from decreasing, there is a tendency to increase the antagonism or hostility which usually prevails in all countries against the immigrant, who lives and works in any given locality.

This hostility may generally be ascribed to the fear of economic competition, it being generally admitted that the new immigrant on arriving into the country not only brings lowered or different standards of living with him, but he is also tempted to accept lower wages because of the fact that he desires to secure employment as soon as possible. Naturally, this is not generally the case, because in many instances immigrants of better standing, socially and financially, gravitate to the city because of peculiar conditions in their own countries, such as political agitation, revolution or social disturbances in their community or family circles.

In Harlem proper, about 20% of the colored population is from the British West Indies. These people form an aggressive and enterprising part of the population. They occupy all the avenues of life, preponderating in the professions, the trades and other forms of skilled labor. Because of the conditions under which they lived in their native islands, they exhibit qualities which often arouse the antagonism of the native born. Their psychological reactions are quite different from those

who belong to the country. Generally, it is said against them that they exhibit a superiority complex, are arrogant and sometimes contemptuous of the natives who are, in the main, more satisfied with conditions or are willing to abide by the restrictions placed upon them by the majority whites. These latter are also generally actuated by prejudice, which, although allegedly directed against the color of the Negro is as a fact also prompted by economic considerations.

Apart from the so-called West Indians, there are about 100,000 so-called Porto Ricans who speak the Spanish language and who are usually considered by the native colored people as a race apart. Because of the peculiar psychology of the whites, a majority of these people, obviously colored, are classed as whites and the native colored people blindly follow in the same path, by regarding them also as whites, mainly because of the fact that they speak a foreign tongue. In doing this, they deny the evidence of their own eyes.

Strangely enough, they also fall into another error by overlooking the fact that Porto Rico is an island of the West Indies, and therefore, along with Cuba, Haiti, and Santo Domingo, the inhabitants are also West Indians or Antillians. It is to be borne in mind also that many of these so-called Porto Ricans hail from Mexico, Central and South America. In the main, however, there is no earthly reason why they should not be grouped as colored and included in the considerations which affect Harlem, in which they also dwell in large part.

The native colored man however, in his blissful contentment is prepared to ignore this great reservoir of assitants and comrades in distress who are right at his call while he proceeds to look with disfavor on the other West Indian colored peoples, who however, wait for no invitation to plunge into the social, religious and political arenas in Harlem.

The result is that in many cases these latter are represented in numbers considerably out of proportion to the colored population and those who do not enter into a proper and careful examination of the matter are inclined to attribute other causes for this phenomenon. They are also inclined to keep aloof from activities in which the foreigners take part in large numbers with the result that opportunities which may have been grasped for the benefits of the whole community, have been allowed to slip by.

The position is getting worse and worse daily. It is known that several public offices of honor, note and dignity have been recently allowd to get out of the hands of the colored people because of mutual intraracial jealousies. It has occurred that political offices which could have been won at election if there was united action, were lost to the whites because there was a common understanding that rather than allow it to go to a member of one or the other faction or group, it would be preferable in their own blindness that the whites should win.

In the section where the Porto Ricans preponderate the same holds true. There is no agreement between the three divisions of the colored people as to what should be fought for, and what would be satisfactory for all the factions and the community. Because of that, the Irishman or the Jew, or any Continued on page Six

Rep. Mitchell sets an Example

By CYRIL W. STEPHENS

During the week of March 21, the Negro Press has been vociferous in its praise of Representative Arthur Mitchell (Dem., Ill.) for his designation of six Negro youths to the Government Service Schools at West Point and Annapolis, and rightly so, for the appointment of six Negro boys to these schools deserves special commendation. So great was our elation that we failed to take cognizance of the fact that he designated five white youths also, and the possible effect it should have upon white Representatives, who have Negro constituents.

Now that the rejoicing has subsided, and our minds have returned to "normalcy", it may be well for us to ponder dispassionately, and perhaps analyse constructively, the motive behind this new policy of fair and impartial designation to these schools, so timely inaugurated by Congressman Mitchell, and the possible consequences for better representation for the Negro not only at the United States Military and Naval Academies, but generally, which, to my mind, is of far greater significance than the mere appointment of six Negro youths.

As we all know, Congressman Mitchell comes from the First Congressional District of Chicago, which is a mixed district, having both white and colored voters. Therefore, Mr. Mitchell in exerting his prerogative of naming candidates to the Government's Service Schools, took this matter into consideration, and named the five white youths, thereby giving his constituents a practical democratic representation.

This was a masterly stroke of political diplomacy in all its subtleness, and from all indications it had for its accomplishments two main objectives: first, it hurled a direct satirical challenge at some of his colleagues in the House, who are so effusive in their love and praise for the Negro during election time, but afterwards forget their obligations to him as a voter; secondly, it immediately raised his office above the level of racial prejudices and animosities, with a firm and militant determination to see that members of his own race are given a square deal.

There is no doubt he has given to white political America a vital lesson of fairness and decency to all voters irrespective of race, creed, or color, which is one of the true fundamental tenets of a Democracy.

His sharp deviation from the strict racial policy of appointments is a marked contrast to that followed by his predecessor in office, the Hon. Oscar DePriest. It is worthy of emulation by white Congressmen and especially those whose very political existences are so dependent on the Negro votes. But these representatives have shown a contemptible disregard for permitting the Negro voter to share in some of the benefits and privileges of his citiznship, that his vote has helped to make possible for these Congressmen to dispense. This new policy also makes for better race relationship at the schools, for there invariably seems to exist a spirit of comradeship peculiar to boys from the same States, especially when appointed by the same Congressman, for they usually have the same sectional pride, interest, sympathies, and the watchful and paternal guidance of the same representative. This kind of common relationship is very essential to the Negro youth if

During the week of March 21, the Negro Press has been he is to succeed under the present circumstances at both the ferous in its praise of Representative Arthur Mitchell Military and Naval Academies.

The Census Bureau in Washington has recently published a bulletin. This document shows the concentration of colored voters in communities of strategic political importance—data immensely useful to the practical worker in election vineyard. Eight out of fifteen cities listed are north of the Mason and Dixon Line, where no one questions the voice and vote of the colored people, and in each of these eight the colored population is large enough to influence materially, if not actually control the Presidential election—especially in a close contest such as this Year's promises to be. Add to this fact that the three cities listed are New York, Chicago, and Cleveland all pivotal and located in pivotal States which are almost essential to the next President. Here is a summarization of the bulletin:

Memphis	96 550
New York	
Chicago	
Philadelphia	
Baltimore	
Washington	
New Orleans	
Detroit	
Birmingham	
St. Louis	
Atlanta	90,077
Cleveland	71,888
Houston	63,337
Pittsburgh	54,983
Richmond	52,988

"It is conservatively estimated that one fifth of the colored population in the northern cities is qualified to vote and does so." From the above quotation and figures cited, it can readily be seen that if the white Congressman would only manifest the same spirit of fairness and honesty to their Negro contituents, as Congressman Mitchell has done, there would be no doubt that the Negro youth would be well represented at both these schools. But from the records they don't do it, and the Negro does not demand it—it seem to be the complacent attitude for Negroes to sit idly by while their rights are being confiscated by wily politicians.

Just for the sake of bringing out a specific example, I shall take for a simple illustration the 21st Congressional District here in Harlem. From the records I have investigated, this District has a voting strength of 75,000; one-third or 25,000 of these are Negroes but our representative, the Hon. Joseph J. Gavagan, who is now completing his third term has never even made a generous gesture of offering an appointment to a Negro youth as ex-Congressman Martin Ansorge did in 1922 when he named Emil Holley to the Naval Academy. And the most tragic feature of the whole situation is that our supposed Negro leaders, Religious, political, social and otherwise, have meekly acquiesced to this treatment. They are pursuing a policy of watchful waiting for the day when a Negro Congressman shall be sent from this district, instead of demanding from their white incumbent, Representative Gavagan, our rights as

Continued on Page Eight

Radio Station W2ESK

By HERBERT CLINTON

A great many of u: have turned on our radios and occasionally set the dial near 1500 or turn on the short wave switch and listen to the police alarms. At times we have heard some station with a tremendous amount of volume calling "CQ" or "W2—," for a number of times and then the speaker would say, "W2ESK, the Harlem Radio Club in New York City is calling you and standing by"; then there is a period of silence. If we don't move our dial from that particular spot for a number of minutes we suddenly hear, "W2ESK is coming back to W2--well old man your sigs are Q-5 R9, quality fine business

The rig over here is a ----"
This sort of thing continues for a quarter of an hour and sometimes longer and then we hear, "W2ESK the Harlem Radio Club in New York is signing off with W2--- after a very fine business QSO and W2ESK in New York are standing by on the band for any other 160 meter radio station."

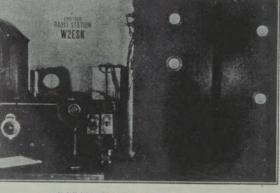
We noticed the indicator on our dial and we see that it is pointed to the section called 160 meter Amateur

between the police alarms and the aviation signals.

At times we heard the speaker at W2ESK say that the station was located in "the Harlem YMCA" so when we found it convenient we visited the "Y" and after inquiries, are directed to 302. Upon our entrance into the radio room our attention is automatically focussed upon the person speaking into the microphone or manipulating a telegraph key. Another young man who was reading a magazine introduces himself and we tell him about our hearing this station; and being in the neighborhood, we decided to make a visit.

The young man explained the sending and receiving equipment of the station and he showed us verification cards received by the Harlem Radio Club after they had held a two way communication with all the principal countries of the world. By now we became so interested we sat down and listened to the young man tell how The Harlem Radio Club was organized in 1932 with its central headquarters in the 135th Street Branch YMCA and that its aims are to advance the art and science of radio communication by affording its members opportunities to meet and discuss radio problems and aid in the expansion of the radio electronic art and all the relative branches of science that the "Inter Racial Flyers" who made the flight to the West India's depended upon this unique club to relay their progress

and engineering allied with radio. The members of this technical organization consist of licensed wireless operators intereted in some phase of the radio and electrical field as a profession or We learn further that this club gives a radio exhibit each year that attracts a wide spread of attention and interest and in addition sends over a thousand third party radiograms every vear free of charge. We were quite surprised to learn



RADIO STATION W2ESK

to the backers in Atlantic City: this is only one of the many accomplishments that the Harlem Radio Club has achieved.

It is becoming quite late so we take leave of the Wireless Room and accept the cordial invitation to return again some Friday evening. As we ride down in the elevator we feel proud to know that those in the Harlem Radio Club are the embryo leaders of our race who want to realize stirring ambition in a field that has not been exploited by our group until the present, and we hope that the race and community can't help but draw inspiration from such worth while undertakings,

ENHIBITION WEEK of the Harlem Radio Club—April 26th to May 2nd.

We are trying to make EDUCATION the Magazine you want it to be. You can help us by sending in your suggestions for improvement. JOHN DOE objects to having Seventh Avenue Susie on our staff. He has a message for you. Read his column today—page five.



JOHN DOE

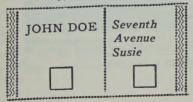
I'm not disgusted, just a bit surprised. What is education, anyway? and who are the educated?...What class reads EDU-CATION?

Last month I urged the public to vote for this or that column next door. Deep down in my heart I felt I would be preferred. The latest return is Seventh Avenue Susie—107; John Doe—12. Is this disheartening? Does this vote reflect the type of people who reads EDUCATION? Does it indicate anything? I hate to be serious!

In the event that the trend of this controversy escaped my readers' attention, I am repeating that I feel a journal of this type should be peculiarly discriminating; should follow the tenets of conservatism or a dignified liberalism as seems to be the policy of the editorial department; catering to an academic knowledge in preference to the encouragement of the sensational and the salacious.

The management has bowed to the intrigue and fancy of a morbid group represented by Seventh Avenue Susic. Whether the few pennies received on increased sales of EDUCATION will enrich our treasury or enhance our reputation, only the future can tell. But I presume to predict ultimate injury to both.

Below I have prepared a box for you. If you want that woman to be with us, clip out the box; mark an X under her name and send or mail it to us; if, on the other hand, you care to have me remain, mark an X under my name and forward clipping.





Whoopie!

I am very happy indeed to know that a fellow columnist has found in my appearance in these pages attractive and interesting reading for his following and the general public. It is something to raise whoopie about! But before I do, I should like to thank John Doc His amiability is appalling. To think that my dear friend would trouble himself to the extent of preparing a ballot to facilitate public preference as between him and me, is much more than I expected even of a gentleman.

Suffice that. I should like to tell of one of my experiences on Seventh Avenue last night About nine o'clock walking south from 135th Street, a tall, dark, handsome Southerner approached me and said "Hello, Susie! I have heard a lot about you, but never had the pleasure of meeting you." Before I had a chance to answer, he continued, "A frier! of mine in that restaurant over there"—ht pointed to a beer garden near by—"pointed you out to me. Do you want to step in and have a couple of drinks with us?" The young man's manners were so polished and his bulk so appealing. I just could not resist. Moreover, it is my business to accept the attention of gentlemen. "Whoopie," said I, "whoever you are my dear boy, let's go. I am just plain Seventii Avente Susie out for a good time." "You will have it, sister." he replied.

I did have it—\$10.00 worth of it. For before half an hour had passed my pocket-book and \$10.00 in it was missing and no one apparently knew where it was The first time such a thing has happened to me on Seventh Avenue Beware girls! He is tall, dark and handsome!

JUSTICE

By EARL MILLER

Let that little word printed above beat on your ears like the strokes of a bell. "JUSTICE"—yes—"JUSTICE"—a very simple word—very easy to spell. Oh! but how some refuse to heed that word.

On March 19th, 1935, Negro Harlem cried out for Justice. Some call it a riot—ome call it an outburst—some call it Communism. It was none of these. It was Negro Harlem crying for "Justice"

What has happened since that time? Weil, according to the record, the Mayor of the City of New York appointed a Committee to study the causes of that cry. Has the Commission made that study? The answer is "yes." Has the Commission made their report? The answer is "yes."

Now then, what has the Mayor done about it?

Negro Harlem, however, is still waiting—waiting very patiently on the Mayor to answer the cry of the Negro people of Harlem. How long will that patience last?

Let us for a moment look at one of the urgent needs of the community. Negro Harlem is and has been asking that a Negro be appointed a Magistrate. We feel this should have been done a long time ago. Promises have been made that it would be done. Negro Harlem is talking about a Negro Magistrate now—how long will we have to continue talking? No one knows, but we do know that we are entitled to representation on the Magistrate bench and we are asking that Justice be done.

Again we say that the two Negro Judges in the Municipal Court have made "good" Not only that—but the Negro lawyer of today is making "good" wherever and whenever he has been called upon to serve. We are not going to quote the school or the university that Negro lawyers have been graduated from We take it that everyone knows that they could not be practicing their profession had they not paid the price.

Negro Harlem will not be fooled any longer with false promises. Our time has come for action—the kind of action that will give to the quarter million Negro people of Harlem a Negro Magistrate—That's Justice!!!

Workings of the Board of Aldermen

of the City of New York

By EUSTACE V. DENCH, Alderman, 21st A. D.

The Board of Aldermen of the City of New York is at present composed of sixty-five members representing the Boroughs of Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond; together with the Board of Estimate they constitute the Legislative Body of the City.

The 19th and 21st Aldermanic Districts, composed chiefly of Negroes are represented by two of their group, namely the Honorable Charles Lynch, representing the 19th A. D. and

Eustace V. Dench, representing the 21st A. D.

The first meeting of the Board is held on the first Monday in January, and subsequent meetings are held on Tuesdays of each week. The Board of Estimate meets on Fridays. Besides the regular meetings of the Board, there are meetings at stated times of the various committees, as for example, the Finance Committee, Ways and Means Committee, Committee on Public Welfare, Committee on Traffic, Thoroughfares, Markets, etc. The members of the Board are assigned to several of the committees in order to efficiently carry out their legislative program. The business of the Board is presided over by the Aldermanic President, and in his absence the Vice Chairman.

Any citizen of the United States, residing in the City of New York, is qualified to become a candidate for membership to the

Board of Alderman.

The powers of the Board are divided into two groups, one—legislative, two—financial. The Board is vested with the legislative power of the City of New York, except that their legislative acts shall not conflict with any laws of the State or of the United States. Legislation takes the form of city ordinances or resolutions.

The annual budget of the city is prepared by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and must be submitted to the Board of Aldermen not later than five days after November lst of each year, and a special meeting of the Board shall be called by the Mayor to consider such budget. The Board of Aldermen has the power to reduce the amounts fixed by the Board of Estimate, except those amounts as are fixed by law, or as are inserted for the payment of state taxes or interest and principal of the City budget. The Board, however, may not increase any of the items submitted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. The action of the Board on the budget is subject to veto power by the Mayor, as well as all other legislation passed by the Board or the Municipal Assembly, except that a two-thirds vote of both bodies may override a veto by the Mayor.

The Board of Alderman upon recommendations by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, has the duty to fix the salary of every officer or person whose compensation is paid out of the City Treasury, with certain exceptions.

All contracts except as otherwise provided in the city charter, and all sales of personal property belonging to the city, shall be made under such resolutions as shall be established by such resolutions of the Board of Alderman.

Every member of the Board of Alderman is a trustee of the property, funds and effects of the City of New York, so far as such property funds and effects are subject to their management and control.

Members of the Board are ineligible to be appointed to any other city office, and may not be a contractor of the city, either directly or indirectly. They may not during their term of office hold any other office in the U. S. Government, or in the state, except that they may be appointed commissioners of deeds and notary publics, or an officer of the National Guard, and they are permitted to act as commissioner for the taking of bail, registrar of a Court.

During the short period of my membership in the Board, I have addressed myself particularly to the problem of Home Relief and its administration in Harlem, with the purpose of seeing that deserving cases are promptly taken care of; and that discrimination in the employment of Negroes in the Personnel Department is lessened, if possible, to be entirely eradicated.

I shall later address myself to the problem of schools, playgrounds and hospitals; with the fervent hope that before my term expires, many needed improvements will have been completed or at least undertaken.

The Intra-racial Problem In New York City

Continued from Page Two

white person is able to control the community to the advantage of his friends and relatives and the detriment of the colored people as a whole.

It is time, therefore that something be done in this matter to organize some kind of intra-racial council which shall have for its objects the creation of a better spirit of mutual understanding and forbearance; a united front in dealing with civic and political matters; the dissipation of mutual prejudices, suspicions and jealousies. As matters now stand, unless such objects be accomplished very soon, there will be no real and lasting progress in the community.

The colored man needs education in this direction and plenty of it. The hands of the clock are in danger of being set back if this foolish attitude is allowed to prevail without

vehement protest and continuous agitation.

This matter was discussed at the National Negro Congress held in Chicago in February last by the Section of the Foreign born. At this section meeting, there were, among the speakers, colored and white men of different nations, speaking different languages. At the conclusion of the discussion, a committee was appointed, and the following resolutions were drawn up, presented to the Congress and adopted:—

That the Congress go on record as condemning any form of discrimination practised against foreign born Negroes in the United States.

Due to the fact that the foreign-born Negroes have integrated themselves in American life by taking an active part in the economic, educational and political aspects, be

Continued on Page Seven

. The Theatre . .

A personal interview with Miss IOSEPHINE BAKER

By HARRY T. STEWART

Some said she was haughty, some said she was "high-hatting" Harlem; some said she was choice as to who interviewed her, preferring to be interviewed by "white only". Some said she spoke brench when one of her former friends did get sufficiently close to her to converse.

On Saturday afternoon, April 11th, at the Winter Garden Theatre, New York City, where she is headlined in the lights

with Gertrude Neisson, Fanny Brice, et al, in the Follies, it was my pleasure to interview the much criticised Josephine BAKER, and I am satisfied that all of this evil criticism is born of envy among both white and colored. It would be an impossible incongruity for the things she has been accused of to fit in with the person I met.

On being ushered into her room, I found Miss BAKER completing the dispatch of her Easter telegrams. When telegrams. she turned to me she pleasantly said: "Wouldn't you please have a seat?" I found myself gazing into the charming face of a pleasant young woman whose voice and manner were so far different from that which I had been warned to expect that I had to ask, "Are you Miss Baker?" A moment later as the telegraph boy was leaving. Miss Baker turned to find me looking at an Easter bunny of which there were three cardboard cartons full in her room,



Miss JOSEPHINE BAKER

"Do you like them? They are my Easter gifts to the kiddies of the chorus," said Miss Baker, "and I am waiting

till the last minute before giving them so as to avoid their attempting to get me return gifts." I don't know how many kids were in the chorus, but I do know they were in for a treat, for the bunnies were beautiful,

Josephine Baker took "French leave" of her home in St. Louis, Mo., where her parents now reside, to begin her stage career. That was about twelve years ago. She spent about nine years of this period in foreign countries, leaving New York in 1925 with the "Chocolate Kiddies", the renamed "Chocolate Dandies," She has appeared in every European country also in Turkey, North Africa, South America and parts of the Orient.

With the call boy's "You're on next Miss Baker," my interview was ended all too soon, but I was convinced that the critics of Josephine Baker were all "wet".

JOSEPHINE BAKER is not just another "black diversion"but an artist. It is her business and privilege to freely mingle with all races, and for her to display a super-sensative attitude about race would, to a degree, destroy the opening that she has helped to make for other Negro artists to be accepted on the same basis as any other Broadway sta.

We human beings are still envious creatures, too prone to criticize and too stinting with praise. Let's reverse the process once and say in a hearty toast to Josephine Baker:

"MAY YOU CONTINUE YOUR SUCCESS"

MACBETH COMES TO HARLEM

William Shakespeare's Play "Macbeth" opened up at the Lafayette Theatre a couple of weeks ago and on the premiere night there wasn't standing room for an ant. With an entire Negro cast, the author, as an observer, might have been slightly annused and a bit embarrassed to behold so complete a transformation of his ideas. But the colored "lords" and "ladies" did justice to old Bill's play.

Jack Carter, as Macbeth, is truly an actor, and Edva Thomas might have been the original Lady Macbeth.

The Intra-racial Problem In New York City

it resolved that the Congress go on record as opposing any attempt at deporting foreign-born Negroes or dropping them from relief.

That the Congress go on record as seeking to bring about a better relationship between the foreign and native born Negroes.

That the Congress go on record as supporting foreignborn Negroes in their struggle for economic and political freedom in their respective homes.

That the Congress try to bring about an International Negro Congress in order to establish better relationship among Negroes throughout the world.

Tribute Paid Negro Poets

Mr. Leo Evans lauds Americans before Jamaica Poetry League

At the spring session of the Jamaica Poetry League, Mr. Leo Evans paid high tribute to American Negro poets.

According to an account given by the Jamaica "Daily Gleaner", Paul Laurence Dunbar was rated "one of the world's greatest Negro poets" and it was pointed out that American Negro poetry "properly began" with the immortal Phillis Wheatley.

Mr. Evans said in part: "I still have in mind the fact that I am to lecture to you about American Negro poets. Of course, in Jamaica we never stop to think of the colour of a poet, as poets are just poets and nothing else, no matter what the race, creed or colour. Of course this is decidedly the American way, and it is highly necessary that the colour be pronounced.

My lecture is to be about American poets, but there are American poets and American poets. If you should consult a reference library to get information about American poets, you would find among them such names as Waldo Emerson, Longfellow, Whittier, but the name of Paul Laurence Dunbar or James Weldon Johnson would not appear on that list. To find out about these men of colour who have contributed to American Literature, you have got to look up for Negro American poets. I have elected to speak on the Negro American poet because I feel sure that he is not much known to Jamaica, and being fully cognizant of the fact that the population here consists of a possible 85 per cent, of black and negroid people, it is highly important that they become acquainted with the thought-life of the American Negro.

Were I to attempt to speak to you of Longfellow or Whittier, poets of international reputation, what could I really tell you that you did not know? You are too well acquainted with these men. Among the known poets of America there are men of colour. Of course it is not expected that I will be able to treat any but a few of the most prominent. The Negro poet of America does not

GAIN PROMINENCE

by contributing literary masterpieces to the wealth of American litreature, but by treating skillfully and artistically mate-literature, but by treating skillfully and artistically mate-trays the Negro as an ignoranus, a moral coward, a bond slave crying for freedom, challenging society, protesting against racial injustices, or any phase of thought and action that the Caucasian regards as peculiar to the Negro.

His aesthetic aspirations or achievements are never regarded. The moment he displays genuine refinement and the acme of literary skill, he becomes very unpopular. I happen to know of some very erudite and powerful masters of the pen, men of colour, who are authors, and yet they are smothered in obscurity. Such writers will be widely discussed after they have been dead many, many years.

Negro American poetry properly began with Phillis Wheatley, a young slave-girl, who showed remarkable ability as a conversationalist of culture and as a distinguished writer of prose and poetry. It is said that Miss Wheatley, through her writing, won the friendship and admiration of Ulyses S. Grant, famous General of the American revolutionary war.

She was also entertaineed at the White House in Washington, D. C.

Between Phillis Wheatley and Paul Laurence Dunbar, were thirty poets who published poetry in pamphlet form, and books of from one hundred to three hundred pages.

Immediately after the World War James Weldon Johnson and Claude McKay sprung into prominence. They both struck a high note of disillusionment, protest and challenge, discarding the usual pathos, humor and dialect which typified the literary efforts of Negroes prior to that time. McKay's voice was most powerful in protest.

About six years later we find American Negro poetry begins discarding propaganda for propaganda's sake and essaying a more purely artistic use of racial art material, and cultural background. Two new poets arose at this latest period: Countee Cullen, born in 1903, and Langston Hughes, born 1902. Cullen is a poet of lyrical power and beauty, and writes only in the well approved forms of literary English. But many of his poems contain a racial note of deep poignancy. In 1925 he published his first volume, "Colour." This was followed, in 1927, by "The Ballad of the Brown Girl" and "Copper Sun."

Hughes is more the folk-poet in the selection of subject matter and forms. Much of his material is taken from the humbler strata of life. He has made effective use of the form of "the Blues". He is the author of "Weary Blues," in 1926, and "Fine Clothes For The Jew." in 1927.

In that same year James Weldon Johnson published his "God's Trombones," "Seven Negro Folk Sermons." These sermons are fine examples of the simple yet highly imaginative mind of the Negro, who at that time had no education, but displayed oratorical powers."

Representative Mitchell Sets An Example

Continued from Page Three

American citizens. I am only hoping that this move so adroitly executed by Congressman Mitchell will stimulate thinking among the Negro masses so that they will retaliate regardless of party affiliations to those politicians who are guilty of neglecting them.

While it is natural for us to glory in the achievements of a Negro Congressman, yet we must not lose sight of the laggardness of our own representatives who are neglecting their obligations to us. From the figures I have quoted it is evident that the Negro has a great force of potential political power, but this power is lying dormant, and is being terribly exploited by rapacious politicians. What are we going to do about this condition? I think the time has come to force this issue by an organized effort on the part of Negro voters by militant and progressive leaders, preachers, press and all the forces of social control at our command. If for no other reason than to find out why the aspirations and opportunities of the Negro voters are crushed, and are not permitted to develop as all other citizens of their country.

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